

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 98-06

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY EXISTS DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF THE HIGHWAY 70 DEVALLS BLUFF RIVER BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 18, 1998, a river barge carrying farm products struck the Highway 70 White River bridge at DeValls Bluff, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the collision resulted in major damage to the extent that the bridge was declared unsafe and closed to all vehicular and river barge traffic; and

WHEREAS, an average of 2000 vehicles per day normally use the bridge, and the 22 mile detour by roadway represents an economic loss to the local communities; and

WHEREAS, records indicate that over 600,000 tons of farm and mining products are shipped by barge on the White River each year; and

WHEREAS, the loss of river navigation has created an immediate and dire negative economic impact to the farming related communities and commodity businesses for all areas upstream from the damaged bridge;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do proclaim an emergency exists as a result of the closure of this bridge and hereby do petition the Federal Highway Administrator to concur in the declaration of this emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of March in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred ninety-eight.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST